(c) Government's attitude to the forthcoming summit in Islamabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement) Framework Treaty was signed in 1993. Till date the full operationalisation of this arrangement is yet to take place. In addition, SAARC has missed the deadline of 2001 for drawing up a Framework Treaty for a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). The new deadline for the drafting of the Treaty is now 2002.

(c) While India is fully committed to the SAARC process, Government of India feels that there should be substantial progress specially in the eco-cooperation agenda for the SAARC Summit to be meaningful.

Conversion of LoC into International Border

†968. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is trying to convert LoC into international border;

(b) whether the Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has sent any proposal for recognizing the Line of Control as the permanent border between India and Pakistan on the northern sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Pakistan has been actively supporting terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir with the objective of territorial gains.

(b) No such proposal has been received from the President of Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.